

# THE THREE VAN WORMER BOYS ARE PUT TO DEATH.

(Continued from First Page.)

had fastened him in it now gathered around at the nod of surgeons. They loosened the straps and removed something that the audience looked away from as it was borne into an adjoining room.

The priest went out to lead yet another man in. He came back with Fred Van Wormer. The second victim of the law walked as nonchalantly as if he were going to a county fair.

Quick hands were again at the straps. Something with a black mark on its face and with hands and feet that could not move was again before the audience. The electrician was in his seat before the cabinet in the corner, where brass shone. Details began to come out as they had not done before. Dr. Ransom, the prison surgeon, was standing behind the electric chair, a little to the left. Warden Deyo was against the wall on the right.

## THE OTHERS CLAIMED BY DEATH.

The man at the cabinet had his eyes on the doctor, a hand on a switch with a back grip. The surgeon nodded, the man at the cabinet leaned forward slightly. Again that dread "click-spit." A blue light glowed in the cabinet. The current was on. "Click!" Fred Van Wormer's life went out with that and in the place of the blue light a little yellow one glowed. The blue shone again, then the yellow and the chair was emptied of its gruesome burden to make way for the next to die.

Burton Van Wormer did not need any one to help him to walk. With feet that put themselves down firmly and surely he came after the priests. His head was up, his jaws together, so that the muscles at the hinges raised the skin in little knots. In his eyes there was defiance. They took in every detail in the room, the audience, the man at the cabinet whose back was toward him, the chair only a step away. Not a grain of his sand had gotten away from him. He took his seat.

"Good-by, Mead; good-by, Robarge," he said to the two guards who fastened the straps to his wrists and legs. The surgeon saw that the electrodes were fixed properly to head and leg. Then he nodded. The man at the cabinet obeyed the signal and a few minutes later Burton Van Wormer's dead body was in the autopsy room beside those of his brothers.

# THE VICTIMS BID EACH OTHER LAST GOOD-BY.

DANNEMORA, Oct. 1.—The scene in the condemned cells was a trying one for Father Charbonneau; as Willis was led out of his cell Fred and Burton bade good-by to him.

"Good-by, Willis," said the younger.

"Good-by, Will," said Burton.

When Father Belanger came back Fred was standing at his cell door and he held out his hands for the crucifix which the boy who had been killed a moment before had carried to the chair.

"Good-by, Fred," called Burton, and "the kid" went out between his keepers, saying "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus" until he reached the door of the room where his life was to end.

When he was gone Burton turned to Father Charbonneau. "I am glad to die, Father," said he. "I have no fear. In a few minutes it will be all over. I shall be dead and I know I will be happy."

He had not stopped speaking when Father Belanger returned from the death cell. "I am ready," were his next words, and as his cell door was swung back he stepped forth between Keepers Robarge and Lewis.

"Be brave, Burton," said Father Charbonneau.

"I have no fear," the boy answered, and he moved off in the procession of death.

He turned to a hard, lonely face in a wicket as he passed.

Good-by, Mooney," he said.

The face drew back and a faint "good-by" answered him. Allen Mooney will be alone in the condemned cells to-night.

"All of the boys were calm inwardly," said the priests after the execution. "They were peaceful and had not one fear. One must not judge always of a man by his outward appearance. They sent no farewell messages, because they were glad to go."

An hour after the bodies had been taken to the autopsy room the brains of the three had been removed and weighed. The report of the surgeon said that nothing abnormal had been found in any of them.

# HOW THE CONDEMNED MEN FIXED ORDER OF DEATH.

DANNEMORA, Oct. 1.—The order in which the young men were assigned to die was in large measure of their own choosing. In their cells last night and this morning they discussed the matter and showed a disposition each to accord to the other any possible advantage.

It was the decision of Frederick and Burton that Willis should go first, which precedence all three regarded as desirable. They agreed upon first place for Willis on the ground that he was somewhat impressionable and had lately been suffering from a slight bronchial affection, which might weaken his self-control. To this decision Willis made no especial objection and the other brothers willingly left to the Warden the selection of the order in which they themselves should die.

The prison officers in attendance were George Deyo, Warden; James B. Fulton, Principal Keeper, and Keepers Joseph Robarge, William Mead, Edward Lewis and William Parsons.

Dr. Ransom, the prison physician, visited the condemned men in their cells this morning and closely noted their physical condition. He reported to the warden that the men were in the best possible condition, both in mind and body, and well nerved for their ordeal.

## BURTON SHOWED NO FEAR.

"I have no more fear of the electric chair than of this meal which we are about to eat. I would just as leave be the last one to go in, for I know that I can stand the farewell. I am not afraid."

Thus spoke Burton Van Wormer as he sat at a plentiful breakfast today. He appeared to be absolutely unconcerned over the fact that he and his two brothers were about to enter the valley of death in a few brief moments—the dread punishment for their cold-blooded murder of their uncle, Peter Hallenbeck.

Neither of the other brothers showed any decided indications of wavering. Keeper Murphy, who was in the cell room from midnight, said when he came off duty to-day that he never had seen men better prepared for death or more fully in possession of their nerve.

"I tell you," said he to the reporters, "they are a lot more self-controlled than I. Leaving out any question of their guilt, or whether or not they ought to die, I have come to like those three fellows, and it made me feel bad to say good-by to them."

## WISHED THERE WERE THREE CHAIRS.

Willis Van Wormer said to Keeper Murphy: "I only wish there were three chairs instead of one, so we could all go together. The hardest part of it all is the suspense, but we are ready. We are grateful for the kindness which everybody about the prison has shown to us."

As midnight a good supper was served to the brothers, and each ate heartily, although slowly and in silence.

Then came the clanging of iron as the doors to the death house were swung back to admit the relief guard. The guard going off duty stepped to the door of each cell and bade the inmate farewell. Each of the three clasped his hand through the bars of the door and thanked him for his kindness to them.

There was a second shooting of bolts and clanging of iron doors as he passed and then all was silent again save the shrieks and groans of the wind outside.

Finally Willis and Fred retired to their cots and only Burton stood with his side to the door so that the dim light could fall upon the pages of his book of prayers. The guard stopped at his door and Burton looked

# HOW VAN WORMER BOYS WERE PUT TO DEATH IN DANNEMORA—

DIAGRAM EXPLAINS CLOSING MOMENTS OF TRIPLE EXECUTION.



up. "I suppose they'll take me last," he said.

"Can't tell," replied the guard.

"Well, I know they are afraid of my brothers. That's all there is to that."

At last the electric lights grew dim and the cold light of the rising dawn began to creep in. Sounds drifted in from other parts of the prison, and the Van Wormers knew their last day had come.

## RECEIVE LAST COMMUNION.

The guards soon appeared with the clothing in which the three were to go to the chair. They donned the gray flannel shirts and black trousers, the right leg slit to the knee to receive the lower electrode.

At 7.30 o'clock breakfast was brought to their cells, and at 8 o'clock Father Belanger and Father Charbonneau appeared in full canonicals to administer their last communion to the brothers.

The priests visited the cell of Willis first, and then in turn the cells of Burton and Frederick. The balance of the morning was spent in prayers and conversation with the priests.

Warden Deyo announced that no stimulants would be given the brothers to sustain them. State Electrician Davis said that each condemned man would be subjected to three shocks, the first to be of from three to five amperes and 1,800 volts, the second one ampere and 200 volts and the third of from seven to eight amperes and the same number of volts as in the first.

# THREE WHO TREMBLED AS VAN WORMERS DIED.

DANNEMORA, Oct. 1.—While the three young Van Wormers were being shocked to death to-day there were three other persons in the dismal old prison whose feelings must have been of the most awful description. They were Allen Mooney, the only other prisoner in the condemned-cell room, who listened like a cat to each movement connected with the ceremony that he could catch. Unless the Court of Appeals should reverse the judgment of conviction under which he rests or the Governor intervene to save him, he must eventually suffer the same fate. He stands convicted of the murder of two women at Saranac Lake.

In another part of the prison, in a place especially prepared for her, also sat in the shadow of the death chair Mrs. Kate J. Taylor, who is condemned to die for a crime which has few, if any, parallels in this State. It was she who shot her husband, Lafayette Taylor, in their home at Centerville, near Monticello, Sullivan County, chopped up his body and burned the pieces in their kitchen stove or fed them to the chickens.

Within the same walls was Harvey Bruce, the Van Wormers' cousin and their comrade in the murder of Hallenbeck. He had saved his life and insured their conviction by turning State's evidence and securely fastened the crime upon the three brothers. He is serving a sentence of eighteen years, which will be cut by good conduct to eleven years and two months.

# HOW THE VAN WORMERS MURDERED THEIR UNCLE.

Inhuman as it may appear, there are few conversant with the details of the crime for which the Van Wormer boys suffered the death penalty who feel any regret. It was a murder of wanton brutality, deliberately planned and executed with cold-blooded precision. Whatever may have been the motives actuating the boys, there is nothing to excuse their method of revenge.

With the death of these boys a family once respected in Columbia County will be exterminated, for none are left of that branch who bear the name. The three who have disgraced it thought little of it before they committed the crime that sent them to the electric chair.

The mother of the Van Wormer boys died seventeen years ago. Their father married his deceased wife's sister. She was good to the boys—too good, it appears. The father was away from home a great deal, and the indulgent aunt-mother allowed them to have their own way.

## LEADERS IN ALL MISCHIEF.

Early in life they realized the value of sticking together. Although there is a difference of six years between the oldest and the youngest of the three, they were inseparable. In school they were beyond the control of their teacher, because they considered the fancied injury to one of the con-

cern of all three. They were bold and full of original qualities that made them leaders in all the mischief of their neighborhood.

Other boys in the little community grew up into young manhood, and either moved away to take up the work of their lives or settled on the farms of their parents to careers of humdrum activity.

Not so the Van Wormers. They had tasted the false delights of freedom from restraint and cast their lines with their inclinations. In their minds there grew a conviction that the property of their neighbors was their own, and they worked more diligently to obtain it than they would have had to work honestly to attain a like measure of reward.

## CHICKEN STEALING A SPECIALTY.

Nothing was too insignificant for the Van Wormers to steal, but they made a specialty of chickens. In poultry stealing they conducted their operations on a wholesale scale. They robbed henroosts for miles around, picked and cleaned the chickens in an old barn on their father's place and shipped the prepared poultry to commission houses in this city.

The money realized from these operations they spent in dissipation. Little of it saw its way to their father or stepmother. And when their father died he left nothing but a farm upon which rested a heavy mortgage.

This mortgage was held by Peter Hallenbeck, an aged resident of the town of Greenport and the brother of the mother of the boys. Hallenbeck had saved the youths from prison time and again. It is said of him that he spent thousands in repaying persons whom his nephews had robbed.

## HE HOPED TO DRIVE THEM OUT.

In the hope that he would drive them out of the neighborhood, he foreclosed the mortgage in the summer of 1901. The Van Wormer boys and their mother moved to Kinderhook, sixteen miles away. The boys continued their thieving operations there, but were successful in avoiding detection.

The chief topic of conversation among the boys was what appeared to them the unfairness of their uncle in foreclosing the mortgage. They talked of it so much that the action of Peter Hallenbeck appeared to them as a monstrous wrong.

Which of them first broached the plan of assassination for revenge is not known. The others fell into the idea. They arranged to go to Greenport and kill their uncle, but in their arrangements they made a fatal mistake—a mistake that has earned for them the sentence of death.

They engaged the assistance of their cousin, Harvey Bruce. The Bruce boy was intellectually deficient, and was easily led by the daring brothers. He agreed to go with them on their expedition of murder.

## STARTED ON MISSION OF MURDER.

They hired a fast horse at Kinderhook on Christmas Eve, 1901, and drove to Greenport. It was a cold, clear night, and the snow was smooth in the country roads. When they got to the home of their uncle there was a celebration in the little church in the settlement. Mr. Hallenbeck was in his house with his wife and his aged mother.

The boys placed their horse and wagon in a shed some distance from the house, turned their coats inside out, covered their faces with black masks and walked up to the farmhouse. Mr. and Mrs. Hallenbeck and the aged grandmother were in the kitchen talking.

The boys halted from a safe distance. Mr. Hallenbeck went to the door, his tall form outlined in the light from the lamp. The boys raised their revolvers and fired at him. Nearly a dozen bullets entered his body.

## AGED MAN DIED QUICKLY.

Grievously wounded as he was he crawled back into the house for his shotgun, but he died on the way. The widow and the mother ran to a room in the upper part of the house, locked themselves in and remained there until the others of the family returned from the church. The boys drove back to Kinderhook, reaching there long before midnight.

It was supposed at first that the crime had been committed by robbers passing through the town, but suspicion finally directed itself to the Van Wormers and Harvey Bruce and they were arrested. Harvey Bruce confessed and got off with a sentence of eighteen years in prison. The three brothers were sentenced to death.

They took an appeal. Admitting the shooting, they set up the defense that they had no intention of killing their uncle, but that they had gone down to Greenport to give him a Christmas Eve scare. Their lawyer, Judge Cady, contended that so long as there was no intent to murder the crime did not constitute murder in the first degree. The Court of Appeals unanimously overruled this contention and sustained the sentence of the lower court.

Gov. Odell respited the boys from time to time. He hated to confirm their sentence because of the ghastly horror of the death of three brothers on the same day in the electric chair. But he could see no other way; eleven of the jurors who tried the case petitioned him to allow the law to take its course.

# GOELET WEDDING WON'T BE POSTPONED GOT CHECK FROM ALLEGED LUNATIC

Death of Ambassador Herbert, Brother-in-Law of Mrs. Goelet, Will Not Interrupt the Marriage to Roxburgh.

(Special to The Evening World.) NEWPORT, Oct. 1.—Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt returned here today on the steam yacht North Star in order to be with Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Wilson, Mrs. Ogden Goelet, Miss Goelet and other members of the family in their bereavement.

R. T. Wilson, second grandson of Mrs. Wilson and of Mrs. William Astor, went to New York to arrange for the opening of the Goelet and Wilson houses at once.

It is stated on authority that the marriage of Miss Goelet to the Duke of Roxburgh, despite the death of Ambassador Herbert, brother-in-law of Mrs. Vanderbilt and of Mrs. Goelet, will not be postponed, as all arrangements have been completed, but of course it will be a quiet and informal affair and will be robbed of its expected brilliancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt at once drove to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, who, owing to their advanced age, are completely prostrated.

## LOCALS TO CALL STRIKES.

Ironworkers Limit Power of Officials in General Strikes.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Oct. 1.—An important piece of work accomplished to-day at the Ironworkers Convention was the adoption of an amendment to the constitution limiting the power of the president and executive committee in calling strikes. The amendment, as adopted, provides that in the case of general strikes, or in the ratification of national agreements, a member from each local shall be elected to the executive session and given a voice determining the action to be taken. This in effect puts the power of ordering a general strike in the hands of the locals themselves.

A personal victory for President Buchanan was won when the convention appropriated \$350 to pay the expenses to Kansas City of Robert Neidge, the deposed President of Union No. 2 of New York. Mr. Neidge came to the convention upon the invitation of President Buchanan. He was fought by the Parkers crowd, principally, it was said, because he had supported President Buchanan in upholding the latter's action in suspending Parks and Local No. 2.

## ALLEGED REPEATER HELD.

Charles O'Brien Accused of Fraudulent Voting at Primaries.

Charles O'Brien, arrested on the day of the primary elections for alleged repeating in the Twenty-fifth Assembly District, where the fight was between Burrell and Parsons, was held to-day in \$2,000 bail by Justice Wyatt, in Specification to await the action of the Grand Jury.

R. H. Burke, of No. 326 Madison avenue, Deputy Commissioner of Elections, took the stand and gave testimony which involved the name of the Republican County Committeeman, George R. Manchester.

## FORGERS GET MAIL POUCH.

Raised Bank Checks and Got Thousands of Dollars.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 1.—Chief Postal Inspector W. W. Dickson, of this district, and a number of assistants are endeavoring to locate two daring forgers, who are said to have realized thousands of dollars by altering checks. These checks were originally part of the contents of a mail pouch which disappeared about Sept. 5 from a west-bound express train on the Pennsylvania Railroad, between this city and Pittsburgh.

A number of banks in this city hold some of the worthless paper.

## MAY SUCCEED MELLEN.

George B. Harris Named as Northern Pacific President.

CHICAGO, Oct. 1.—It was reported here to-day that George B. Harris, President of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, may be selected to succeed C. S. Mellen as President of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

In that event it is said that Darius Miller, now First Vice-President of the Burlington, will be promoted to the Presidency of the Burlington system. It was impossible to confirm the report or obtain an authoritative denial from the Burlington officials.

## GOOD BANK STATEMENT.

That the bank statement Saturday will be a good one is believed in Wall street. The banks have gained from the Sub-Treasury since Saturday \$2,044,000, and the debit balance of the Sub-Treasury at the Clearing-House this morning was \$1,091,757. Unless the banks lose on to-day's operations the bank gain will be gained by to-morrow more than \$3,000,000.

## MR. CUMMINGS IN TRUST CO.

George M. Cummings, who retired from the Vice-Presidency of the Erie Railway Company at the time of the recent change in the official staff of that street, is to-day elected Vice-President of the United States Mortgage and Trust Company.

## SHIPPING NEWS.

ALMANAC FOR TO-DAY. Sun rises. 5:55 Sun sets. 5:45 Moon sets. 1:08

THE TIDES. High Water. Low Water. A.M. P.M. A.M. P.M. Sandy Hook. 5:57 10:14 10:49 Governor's Island. 3:57 4:10 10:14 10:49 Hell Gate Ferry. 5:50 6:03 11:48 12:21

## PORT OF NEW YORK. ARRIVED.

Mongolian. Glasgow. Patricia. Hamburg. San Domingo. Port Arthur. Ligeron. Genoa. Biruria. Genoa.

## INCOMING STEAMSHIPS. DUE TO-DAY.

Vincenzo Bonanno. El Siglo. New Orleans. Gibraltar. El Apache. Jacksonville. Buffalo. Hull. Apache, Jacksonville. Germanic. Liverpool.

## OUTGOING STEAMSHIPS. SAILED TO-DAY.

Janetessa. No. Brazil. Havana. Havana. La Lorraine. Havre. San Domingo. Mollie. Hamburg. Princess Anne. Barbarossa. Bremen. Norfolk.

## TO CURB A COLD IN ONE DAY.

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have taken the course.

Washington Lawyer May Be Called On to Explain Action in Connection with Case of Capt. Tackberry.

Capt. William G. H. Tackberry, who has been adjudged a lunatic and confined in the Manhattan State Asylum for the Insane, was before Justice MacLean, in Part II, of the Supreme Court, to-day on a writ of habeas corpus, sworn out by his attorney, E. H. Loucks, of Washington, who is endeavoring to secure Capt. Tackberry's release.

Just before the writ was argued Lawyer Loucks asked George C. Austin, counsel for the asylum, if he might speak with his client. Mr. Austin gave his consent and the two retired to the corridor. A relative of the Captain told Mr. Austin that while in the corridor the alleged insane man had signed some paper at the request of the attorney. Lawyer Austin demanded to know what the paper was that the Captain had signed. The Washington attorney refused to disclose the nature of the paper and Mr. Austin appealed to the Court. Justice MacLean ordered the lawyer to produce the paper, and it proved to be a check for \$200 drawn to Loucks's order, upon the National Safe Deposit Savings and Trust Company of Washington.

Attorney Loucks started to make an explanation, when Justice MacLean said: "Is it expedient? Why not reserve the explanation for a time and place when you may be called upon to make it?"

The Court dismissed the writ and ordered that the check be placed in the custody of the Clerk of the Court, and told counsel for the asylum to make an investigation and take whatever action he saw fit.

In 1862, when Capt. Tackberry was stationed at Castle William, he was struck on the head with a block of wood. Since that time he has had religious mania, believing that he has prophetic power and is able to heal the sick by blessing them. For some time he has been confined in the National Hospital for the Insane, and Loucks obtained his release. It is alleged, unknown to his family, who were surprised when the captain returned to his home. Two days after his arrival, said, because he had supported President Buchanan in upholding the latter's action in suspending Parks and Local No. 2.

Recently Attorney Loucks has obtained a back pension for the Captain of \$450 and is now trying to obtain his release from the asylum on the ground that he is not insane.

## MRS. POILLON'S CHARGES.

Accuses Policeman Culhane of Extortion, but He Denies It.

Mrs. Catherine Poillon, brought before the general public in the suit against Millionaire Brokaw, was on the stand to-day in the trial of Policeman Culhane, whom she accused of extorting money from her.

Mrs. Poillon said she brought the matter to the attention of the police because he wanted \$200 subsequently and then she realized that he was extorting money from her.

Culhane took the stand later and denied all Mrs. Poillon's allegations. He said he had no knowledge of any of the transactions in which she claimed it was involved.

## BEAVERS AND GREEN AGAIN.

Federal Grand Jury Presents Another Joint Indictment.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—The Federal Grand Jury, which has been investigating the Post-Office cases, to-day brought in an indictment against George W. Beavers, formerly Chief of the Division of Salaries and Allowances of the Post-Office Department, and State Senator George A. Green, of New York, on the charge of conspiracy, and two indictments against Scott Towers, who is in charge of a sub-post-office station in this city, on the charge of taking a commission on the sale of typewriters to the Government.

## CLOTHING CREDIT.

\$1.00 per week opens an account. Men's Fall Overcoats, in Black, Blue, and Grey. \$9.98

Women's Suits, in Broadcloth, Pebble Cheviots and Manish. \$15.75

HOLZWASSER & CO. OPEN EVENINGS. 1410 TO 1428 3D AVE. Between 80th and 81st sts.

## VINCENT says

Of course there is a difference between my \$15 Tweeds and those at higher prices.

Difference of material; difference of trimming; but each is equally as well worth its price as each other.

Tweeds, \$15, \$25. Broadway—82d Street. Sixth Avenue—12th Street.

## Laundry Wants—Female.

LAUNDRIES on new shirts and collars. Old Globe Laundry, 10 Jones St. 2nd Floor. FEEDERS and folders, experienced, on Manhattan. Brooklyn, 222 W. 4th St.

GIRL wanted; call all week. Woods' Steam Laundry, 48 Parkers Row.

IRONING and cleaning family robes (white or colored). Come ready to work. Laundry, 122 W. 4th St.

STARCHERS; experienced on collars and cuffs. Crystal Steam Laundry, 854 De Kalb av. Brooklyn.

## Laundry Wants—Male.

JOYS wanted, 16 to 18 years, good wages to bright boys. Pilgrim Steam Laundry, 222 W. 4th St. Brooklyn.

100% honest, willing; 27 weekly. Laundry, 324 W. 12th St.

SHRUBS; boy wanted in laundry; German preferred; wages \$4 per week. Wm. Loomis, 211 W. 64th st.

## Help Wanted—Female.

WANTED—Small and medium-sized girls in high-toned dress. 100-10th St., Brooklyn.